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Preface

Special issue: Physics and mechanics of advanced materials

Choon Fong Shih, President of the National University of Singapore, turned 60 in October 2005. To commemorate more than 35 years of distinguished service as a scholar and researcher in the field of mechanics of solids and his leadership in academia, this special issue of the *International Journal of Solids and Structures* is dedicated in his honor.

This issue brings together a collection of works from his friends, former colleagues, and students from all around the world. It is also a tribute to Professor Shih's sense of mission, service, and excellent leadership. His impact on many young scholars and researchers has been indelible. On behalf of his friends and colleagues, we wish him good health and continued success in his career.

In January this year, many contributing authors attended a special symposium titled Physics and Mechanics of Advanced Materials, which was held at the Institute of Materials Research and Engineering (IMRE) in Singapore. The symposium was held to mark Professor Shih's 60th birthday and was hosted by the Materials Research Society of Singapore (MRS-S) and IMRE. We thank Dr. B.V.R. Chowdari, President of MRS-S, and his committee for organizing the successful event. We also sincerely acknowledge Professor S. Kyriakides, Editor of *International Journal of Solids and Structures*, and Mr. Christopher Auger for their tireless efforts in making this special issue possible.

Guest Editors

T. Nakamura

G. Ravichandran

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